

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2762 without my signature.

Our tribal government partners are extremely important to California. I am encouraged by their continued willingness to work with the state and local governments on so many important issues. I applaud the recent agreement between the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and southern California tribal governments to facilitate tribal participation in regional planning decisions.

While I support the participation of tribal governments as members of the SCAG General Assembly, this bill contains language that presents certain policy concerns. Specifically, this bill contains vague and ambiguous language regarding the rights of tribes as sovereign governments. Further, this measure does not adequately address the responsibilities and obligations of those tribes that choose to join SCAG. Given the unique nature of this legislation, this measure's lack of specificity may result in unforeseen legal and policy consequences.

Although I cannot support this bill, I am directing my Office of Planning and Research to work with SCAG and its tribal partners to draft legislation that would authorize tribal participation in SCAG in a manner that clearly defines the role and responsibilities of the tribes that participate in SCAG.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger